

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The following changes have been made in the drawings. Reference numeral 43 has been added to Figure 3 and reference numeral 44 removed from the same part.

The specification and drawing have been amended to eliminate the reference numerals 50 and 74. The part previously referenced as 74 is now referenced as 44, and the part previously referenced as 50 is now referenced as 44.

Reference numeral 20 has been removed from Figure 1 and the specification corrected accordingly.

REMARKS

The Drawings

The drawings have been changed to correct several of the problems noted by the Examiner.

With respect to the Examiner's objection that the reference characters "80" and "84" have both been used to designate the same spline cylinder in Figure 4, it is respectfully submitted that the spline cylinders 80 and 84 differ from one another in the number of splines as set forth in the specification at lines 9-12. Clarification is requested.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings because the reference character "36a" has been used to designate a knuckle of a first configuration in Figure 2 and another knuckle of a second configuration in Figure 3. The Examiner's statement that the knuckle 36a in Figure 2 does not have a groove on the portion adjacent the spline is questioned. It would appear that the groove does appear in Figure 2. Clarification is again requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the reference characters "34a" and "34b" have been both used to designate the same splines in Figure 3. The same objection holds for the reference characters "34a" and "34b." It is respectfully submitted that these reference numerals do indeed reference different parts with different spline counts as set forth in the specification at page 8, lines 5-14. Clarification is again respectfully solicited.

The Claims

The claims have been extensively amended to correct the claim objections made by the last Action to claims 3-7, 9 and 10 and also to respond to the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections to the claims as failing to comply with the written description requirement and being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to make it clear that a pair of knuckle sections, such as 36a and 36b, are referred to.

The amendments clearly comply with all of the Examiner's objections and rejections.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3, 7, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Crorey et al., 6,619,872. Claims 7 and 11, the two independent claims, have been amended to include the limitations of a base member fixed to a first end of one of the elongated members and an article to be supported fixed to a first end of the other elongated member. It is respectfully submitted that the purpose and function of the present invention, as defined by claims 7 and 11, clearly distinguishes from the disclosure of the Crorey et al. patent. Crorey discloses an adjustable support mechanism for retaining a single elongated member 20 to a base member 14 but does not disclose an adjustable support stand comprising a pair of elongated members, with a base on the end of one member, an article support member on the far end of the second member, and an adjustable mechanism as defined by the claims connecting the two. Claims 7 and 11 have

been amended to emphasize this distinction between the present invention and Crorey et al. The arrangement illustrated in Figure 3 of Crorey et al. wherein a pair of elongated members are joined by the adjustable joint does not comply with the limitations of claim 7 relating to a pair of knuckles, each attached to one of their members, each knuckle having an internally splined central hole; and a cylindrical pin formed with axially extending splines adapted to be inserted through the internally splined holes of the two knuckles. Figure 4 of Crorey et al. should be compared to Figure 3 of the present invention. The splined link for joining the two sections 36a and 36b is totally lacking in Crorey et al. Instead, Crorey et al. provides a unitary member 69, joining the two end sections. Similarly, in Figure 11, the joinder between the two sections 36a and 36b is defined in the form of each knuckle having an internally splined hole and a cylindrical pin joining the two. No equivalent structure is present in Crorey et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims is accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By Allen M. Krass
Allen M. Krass
Registration No.: 18,277
GIFFORD, KRASS, SPRINKLE,
ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C.
2701 Troy Center Drive, Suite 330
Post Office Box 7021
Troy, Michigan 48007-7021
(248) 647-6000
(248) 647-5210 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant